

ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

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**THE CHURCH SPIRE PIERCED A LOW HANGING CLOUD
WHILE MOURNERS GATHERED AND CRIED ALOUD
AROUND A FLAG DRAPED COFFIN ON DISPLAY
AND MARINES IN BLUES, IN DRESS ARRAY.**

**THE SALUTE OF GUNS AND THE BUGLES' SWELL,
WITH THE LAST NOTES PEALING "ALL IS WELL."
ALL IS WELL? THE WIDOW STANDS WEEPING,
TAKING THE FOLDED FLAG FOR ITS SAFEKEEPING.**

**SHE REMEMBERS THEIR PLANS, MADE SIDE BY SIDE
AND WHEN THE CALL CAME, HE'D RESPONDED WITH PRIDE
TO FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF THIS GREAT NATION,
FOR LOVE OF FAMILY AND THE NEXT GENERATION.**

**WHEN THEY SAID GOODBYE, SHE HELD HIM TIGHTLY
AND PRAYED FOR HIS SAFETY AS SHE KNELT NIGHTLY,
BUT SHE WEPT UNASHAMED WHEN THE SAD NEWS CAME
OF HOW HE DIED IN BATTLE AS HE BREATHED HER NAME.**

**THIS STORY AS TOLD IS LIKE SO MANY OTHERS,
OF CHILDREN AND WIVES AND FATHERS AND MOTHERS,
WHO ALONG WITH THEIR LOVED ONES, HAVE PAID THE PRICE
TO PURCHASE FREEDOM, THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.**